

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 8, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As members of the United States House of Representatives, we write to express our deep concern and growing alarm at increasing Russian hostilities on NATO's eastern flank. Thank you for your efforts to publicly reassure Ukraine and develop a joint response with our European allies and partners. As one of our strongest partners in the region, we must work to preserve Ukraine's future as a free state. Therefore, it is crucial that your Administration provide Ukraine increased defensive military assistance – including air defense and anti-ship systems – as well as to fully sanction the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and its operator Nord Stream AG, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Russia's Gazprom. We applauded the September 23, 2021 unanimous passage of mandatory sanctions against Nord Stream AG in the House FY22 NDAA and strongly advocated for their inclusion in the final conferenced bill.

As you well know, Russia has significantly increased its aggression toward Central and Eastern Europe in its efforts to undermine transatlantic security. Its military buildup along the Ukrainian-Russian border – the second of this year – is reminiscent of the actions it took before its 2014 illegal war and occupation of Ukrainian territories. On Monday, November 29th, Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko announced joint military drills with Russia. The Kremlin has clearly helped to manufacture a European energy crisis to coerce our allies to complete the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and undermine democratic institutions. Over successive Administrations through decades, Congress has served as the backbone of support for Central and Eastern Europe. The Congressional Ukraine Caucus was pleased to welcome Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his inaugural visit to the U.S. Capitol. President Zelenskyy thanked the Caucus for its efforts to increase security assistance to Ukraine. Congress has also increased development assistance to counter the scourge of corruption in that nation, especially the entrenched corruption networks maintained by domestic oligarchs. To counter Russia's clear and ongoing weaponization of energy, Congress has voted three times on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis to place sanctions on Nord Stream 2.

We strongly urge your Administration to immediately institute sanctions against Nord Stream AG. Your Administration must use all tools to deter Russia from taking further action against Ukraine, including economic sanctions. Congress has a strong bipartisan record on protecting European energy security. We will continue to use future legislative vehicles to protect Central and Eastern Europe from Russian manipulation.

We appreciate the Administration's efforts to rally the transatlantic community diplomatically to support Ukraine's territorial integrity, and the previous delivery of \$60 million in security assistance to Ukraine earlier this year. To further deter Russian aggression, we urge the

Administration to provide Ukraine with defensive lethal assistance including air defense and anti-ship systems in close consultation with our NATO allies on the eastern flank. To maximize deterrence, it is critical that at least some military aid - Stingers, Javelins, drones, and anti-ship missiles - are provided immediately. The Ukrainian state must be equipped with the tools necessary to defend itself and the region against Russian aggression.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with the Administration to ensure a Ukraine that is prosperous, democratic, free, and a strong U.S. partner.

Sincerely,



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



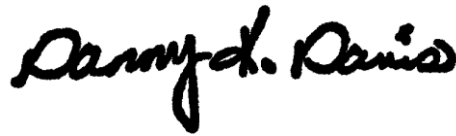
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress




Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress

cc:

Gregory Meeks
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Michael McCaul
Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Adam Smith
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee

Mike Rogers
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense

Jake Sullivan
National Security Advisor